

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 1. This sheet, which includes Figs. 1, 2a and 2b, replaces the original sheet including Figs. 1, 2a and 2b. In Fig. 1, the reference numeral 40 has been added.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

The office action of September 5, 2008, has been carefully considered.

It is noted that the drawings are objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a).

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Claims are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over FR 2833662 to Rovira.

In connection with the Examiner's objection to the drawings, applicant has enclosed herewith a Replacement Sheet of drawings in which the reference numeral 40 has been added to indicate the axial pieces. Claim 3 has been amended to delete the break-in tool.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the objection to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a) is overcome and should be withdrawn.

In view of the Examiner's rejections of the claims, applicant has amended claims 1 and 3.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims now on file particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has amended the claims to address the instances of indefiniteness pointed out by the Examiner.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph is overcome and should be withdrawn.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims presently on file differ essentially and in an unobvious, highly advantageous manner from the constructions disclosed in the reference.

Turning now to the reference, applicant must point out that Rovira is not prior art to the present application. Rovira has a reference date of June 20, 2003, whereas the present application has a priority date of December 19, 2002. Thus, Rovira is not prior art to the present application.



BM-173

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over the above-discussed reference is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with this application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

Respectfully submitted,

By

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on December 5, 2008.

By:

Klaus P. Stoffel

Date: December 5, 2008